a substantial part of the federal arts and humanities budgets will be distributed, by formula, to states and local governments for the support of local equivalents of the national treasures, mandating substantial community outreach as a condition of the award of public support. This money would also be subject to a categorical ban on individual grants.

Finally, the endowments are said to be overloaded with administrative costs and redundancies in areas, such as film production, already supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Public Broadcasting System. A final ''true.'' To solve this problem, the two endowments (and the Institute for Museum Services) should be consolidated into a single endowment under unified leadership, with a presiding chairman and three deputies for the arts, humanities and museum services components. This merger would save millions of dollars, and each of the constituent organizations would benefit immensely from the enhanced cross-disciplinary scrutiny. The humanities section of the new endowment could be constructively pared by at least a third of its present budget with that money redistributed to meet large and urgent arts and museum services needs. (Thumb through the annual NEH catalogue of humanities grants; if you can explain 10 percent of these mystifying projects, you should be the next dean of Harvard College.)

Such reforms are not only possible but already on the congressional table—in the form of a bill, jointly introduced by Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and Robert Bennett of Utah, that addresses every one of these issues. It would be a shame if partisans of the endowments ignored this bill and thus missed the opportunity to anticipate and block the future proposals that will otherwise lead inevitably to the evisceration of the endowments. It may be too late in the budget cycle to consider structural reforms'' right now; but reauthorization or deauthorization time will soon roll around and a deep breath and a careful look at the history and future structure of the endowments will be in order.

The national endowments are powerful symbols of an American commitment to the support and dissemination of the arts and humanities at a time when a horrifying junk culture pervades our public spaces. Even aside from this concern, abandoning the endowments would be a shabby act, utterly unworthy of a great nation. Their massive 30-year contribution to American culture dwarfs their mistakes. They furnish unequaled cognitive tools for early education for the children of what will be the largest and most complex multi-cultural nation in the world.

Ways and means can be debated; what I believe unarguable is that the endowments should not be destroyed—slowly, swiftly or at all—simply because aggressive cultural predators and self-indulgent members of the federal bureaucracy have occasionally corrupted the work of the agencies over the past three decades. And if these persons and organizations now hope to stave off reform, believing responsible defenders of the endowments will simply go away, those of us who care for the arts and humanities and understand their importance should not let them get away with it.●

THE BAD DEBT BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. While we are waiting, Mr. President, let me mention that since February 1992, I have each day the Senate has been in session reported to the Senate the exact total of the Federal debt as of the day before the close of business, or in the case of Mondays the previous Friday. I call it the bad news about the Federal debt, and today's news about the Federal debt is pretty bad.

Before we have ''another go,'' as the British put it, with our little pop quiz that I so often have, I hope Senators will remember one question, one answer, about this $5 trillion debt that the Congress of the United States has run up for future generations to pay off. That one question on my pop quiz is: How many millions of dollars would it take to add up to $1 trillion?

While anybody within earshot is thinking about that, I would suggest that we bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress, where I work—here and the House of Represenatives on the other side—that ran up this Federal debt that now exceeds $4.9 trillion. We are going to hit $5 trillion before this year is out. And these young people who are serving as pages, their generation and generations following them, will be struggling to pay off the debt. Every day that we fail to balance the Federal budget runs the debt up further.

All right, what about the total Federal debt as of the close of business yesterday, October 17? The total Federal debt down to the penny stood at $4,968,953,453,657.73. Now, this figure is not far from $5 trillion.

Another depressing figure discloses that on a per capita basis, assuming that every man, woman, and child would accept and pay off somehow his or her share of the debt—and we know that only about half of the people, men, women, and children, will in fact pay any taxes at all, but if everybody had a share and paid it off, it would amount to $18,862.23 per man, woman, and child.

Now, then, remember the question that I asked in my little pop quiz? How many million in $1 trillion? There are 1 million million in $1 trillion. That gives you some idea of the enormity of the debt and the enormity of the irresponsibility of the Congress during the past generation or more.

I suggest the absence of a quorum, awaiting wrap-up information.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HELMS. For the final time this afternoon, I ask unanimous consent that further proceedings under the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

BILL READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1715

Mr. HELMS. Now, Mr. President, I will inquire of the Chair if H.R. 1715 has arrived from the House of Representatives?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has. It will be read for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1715) respecting the relationship between workers' compensation benefits and the benefits available under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I am going to object to my own request since there is no Democrat on the floor. I am going to do their job for them in this instance.

I now ask for its second reading. And I object to my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HELMS. So the bill will remain at the desk and be read a second time following the next adjournment of the Senate; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. HELMS. All right.

ORDERS FOR TOMORROW

Mr. HELMS. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 10 a.m., tomorrow, Thursday, October 19, 1995, and that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, that the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there then be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the exception of two Senators: Senator KASSEBAUM 10 minutes and Senator DORGAN 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m., tomorrow, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 927, the Cuba Libertad bill, and that at that time Senator DODD be recognized to offer his two amendments that remain in order under a previous unanimous-consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

PROGRAM

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, it is the hope of the leadership that the Senate may complete action on H.R. 927 by 12 noon, or thereabouts, tomorrow; therefore, votes can be expected to occur prior to 12 noon tomorrow.

So I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur on or in relation to the Simon amendment numbered 2934, Thursday, October 19, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, following 20 minutes of debate to be equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

Following the disposition of H.R. 927, it is the hope of the leader that the

Senate may consider the State Department reorganization bill, if the manager's amendment can be worked out by that time.

Now then, the NASA authorization is a probability in terms of consideration tomorrow.

Therefore, additional votes can be expected following the disposition of H.R. 927.

Also, all Senators should be on notice that the majority leader intends to turn to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill on Friday of this week.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, following the remarks of the majority leader, if there be no further business to come before the Senate at that time, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand that we are on automatic pilot. When I finish, we will go out?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DOLE. I will say, the Senate Finance Committee will resume markup of the $245 billion tax reduction bill. I am not certain precisely when that will be. I think somewhere around 5 o'clock. The chairman, Senator ROTH, will be in contact with the committee members.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, Washington can be a scary place sometimes and pretty scary around the time of Halloween. But yesterday's announcement from Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin about expiration of the debt ceiling on October 31 brings Halloween scare tactics to a whole new level.

I was dismayed to see the administration resort to this sort of game-playing on the debt ceiling and the budget situation. And I am sure many in the financial community were as dismayed as I was.

Mr. President, investors around the world are watching our performance here in Washington and they are particularly watching how we Republicans are handling the Nation's financial situation.

So far the reaction has been very positive. Look at U.S. long-term interest rates, a key sign of investor confidence in the U.S. economy. The bond market has been strong and the rates have been steadily declining as the financial community sees our determination as a Republican Congress to finally deal with the problem of the Federal budget deficit once and for all.

Last December—right after the Republicans swept the 1994 congressional elections—the interest rates on 30-year bonds began their decline from 8.0 percent to 6.29 percent today. The interest rate on long-term bonds has declined steadily since this spring when we passed our budget resolution to get on a path to a balanced budget by the year 2002. It is our actions as a Republican Congress that have spurred confidence in our country's future economic security.

Today we find ourselves in the ironic situation of a Secretary of the Treasury—the U.S. Government official with the primary responsibility of promoting confidence in the economy—actually trying to disrupt the financial markets.

Secretary Rubin has politicized this debate. His actions yesterday to reduce normal, previously scheduled borrowing next week can only be interpreted as designed to disrupt the market. No Secretary of the Treasury should try to be destabilizing our financial markets.

As Secretary Rubin said in his letter—about the only sentence in it I agreed with—''This is no way for a great Nation to conduct its financial affairs.''

I hope that no one will be fooled by these Halloween scare tactics from the administration. In fact, even after yesterday's announcement the bond market was strong. The American people want us to do the job of getting the deficit under control.

Mr. President, no one wants a default. And scare tactics are no way to prevent such a default. I can guarantee that we in the Congress will work hard to see to it that there is no default by the U.S. Government on its obligations.

But make no mistake: We will not retreat in our battle to end the stranglehold that the Federal deficit has on future generations of Americans. This is the year to do the heavy lifting necessary to get our Nation's financial house in order and I trust the administration will choose to be helpful in the serious work ahead of us in the coming weeks.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I move the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate, at 3:54 p.m., recessed until Thursday, October 19, 1995, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate October 18, 1995:

THE JUDICIARY

NINA GERSHON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK VICE LEONARD D. WEXLER, RETIRED.

BARBARA S. JONES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK VICE KENNETH CONBOY, RESIGNED.

JOHN THOMAS MARTEN, OF KANSAS, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS VICE PATRICK F. KELLY, RETIRED.